

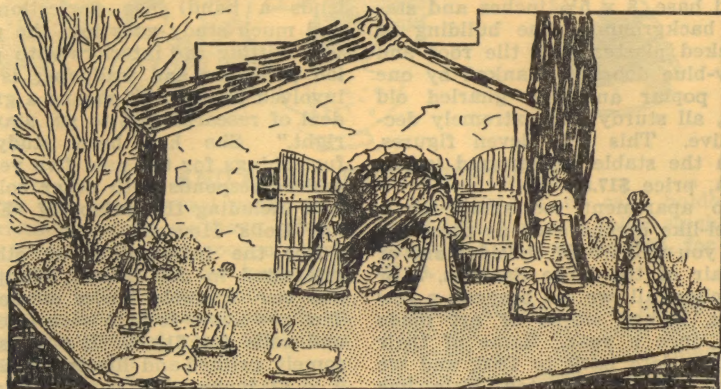
## DOLL TALK

FOR . . . .  
COLLECTORS

Volume 12, Number 9

Nov.-Dec., 1958

## Creches from Provence



You can't have forgotten the Santons of Provence, which had Doll Talk front page billing only last July-August. These delightful French dolls of old Provencal peasants were much beloved by all of you who ventured. And knowing that you collectors would approve these utterly different handcraft things, we also bought ahead, some Manger sets, made by the same artistic villagers in the rugged hills of southern France.

All of our lives we've seen Creche sets at Christmas time. The box of Holy Family, Wise Men, etc., was brought out and the little figures played with just a bit to make them seem more real. Then, formally arranged with or without a stable, with animals and folk who might be 'round an Inn of Bethlehem, the treasured creche stays through the Christmastide.

Our sets this year are small, but oh so choice, both as to intricate modeling of terra cotta and richly vibrant colors. For instance, on the Three Kings, all bearing gifts of gold, their robes are patterned and their flowing capes faced back, light against darker purple, orange against deep red and turquoise lining for the dark green cape, all edged with gold line braid. Faces are French, beautifully detailed; height of a standing figure in the larger set, 2¼ inches, the small set only 1½ inch, but still amazing as to fine detail.

Eleven pieces, one signed 'Car-bonel', comprise each group. Baby Jesus is in a basket-like manger, kneeling Mary and Joseph, she in Madonna blue and buff, Three Kings, two shepherd lads in French provincial dress of now are quite delightful, and then of course in-

cluded are the ox, the ass and another sheep.

Larger set alone is No. 510, eleven items at \$12.50.

The "cricket" size set, (so it translates) comes with an Inn yard base, 8 x 5½ inches and stable background. The building of cracked plaster with tile roof and gray-blue doors, is flanked by one tall poplar and one gnarled old tree, all sturdy and extremely decorative. This set, eleven figures, with the stable background is No. 510A, price \$17.50.

No apartment too small for a jewel-like creche such as these—or—if you still would consider one or a pair of the large Santons, 8 or 9 inches tall, we did bespeak a few more, signed works of art made only once a year. Some of their moulds date back to 1800, and we were told the Santon Fair has been held each December in Marseilles since 1804! So you wouldn't be experimenting with something new. The fisherfolk, shepherd, faggot gatherers and half a dozen other one-of-a-kind, may be re-ordered while our supply lasts. No gift could be more appropriate to go with French Provincial furnishings. The price is \$17.50 each.

### AN AMBITIOUS HOUSEKEEPER

Mrs. William R. Mahoney of Illinois devotes her time to furnishing and maintaining eight houses in the Village—her own home and seven miniature doll houses. They range from a hand-made house fashioned of crates, with a shingled roof, to a 1917 model complete with glass windows.

"The oldest one," Mrs. Mahoney said in a newspaper interview,

"may date back as far as 1860. Sometimes it's hard to set an exact date." She found one of her doll houses in a Wanamaker catalogue of 1897.

The Mahoneys, (the Mr. often lends a hand) are perfectionists and much study goes into the project. Fitting the interiors with period furniture and wallpaper is an involved process. "It means a great deal of research just to get started right." She has been studying furnishings for the past five years, and corresponds with other collectors including the author of "English Dolls' Houses."

For the information of others interested in doll houses, Kimport has two valuable books available. The one above is by Vivien Greene and sells for \$12.50. It's a handsomely printed and illustrated book, 9 x 12 inches, 200 pages. Everything about doll houses, furniture and miniaturia and much about dolls, too. An English import. The other book entitled "A History of Doll Houses" is by Flora Gill Jacobs and will be mailed postpaid for \$7.50. Collectors of dolls and miniatures, as well as antiques, will delight in this book. There are chapters on the Old Dutch "cabinet" doll houses, on German, French, English and American. More than 150 illustrations in 313 pages.

### 'WITH THE WIND

Now WHERE did you put the 1919 Woman's Home Companions? There was an article in one for that year giving the story of Georgene Averill and her winsome bisque-headed baby doll. Helps to date this now-collector item, even if we did mislay the nice old magazine!





### AND AGAIN THIS CHRISTMAS

For the past several years as a Christmas special we have offered the following Italian wooden novelties and each year we have sold out and had to turn late orders down, so be forewarned and do at least this part of your Christmas shopping early!

Little Mr. Santa is just 1 1/4 inches high but such a jolly little fellow. Brightly enameled in flesh, rose, scarlet, white, black, and yellow, he is just the ticket to stick atop your special packages, use as

a Yule time place card holder or stuff into the wee folks stockings. You get 6 Santas, No. 764, for just \$1.00.

Baby angels, two inches tall, come six to a set, each bearing a different gift, they are made to dangle from your tree or mantel by attached silver cords. There are almost a dozen colors used in each set of these sweet-faced, wooden tots, all sure to delight you. No. 760, set of 6, \$1.50.

### CLEANED!

Joy Simmons, Chicago, is so proud of a recent laundering venture that we're sure she will be willing to share. In case you are hoarding a length of velvet, too grimy to cherish longer as is—but here is the way Joy told it:—

"First, let me say the exquisite parian head arrived in fine shape, and all I have done so far is to get it onto a body. The beautiful material has not been touched, except the velvet. I washed it, and it came out like new. The secret—cold water and Woolite, and after rinsing I let it drip dry. No loss of color at all."

### KEEP IT CLEAN!

Leona Peterson, New York, here shares a bit of successful experience as to how she un-smudged a choice doll's nose.

"There was just a plain dirty spot on that brown-haired china's nose. I tried household bleach—nothing happened! Then fingernail polish remover—no result! Then I tried one right after the other. The combination of bleach (Rosex) and polish remover did it! She now has the cleanest nose of any girl in New York! Finally, I smoothed the tip of her nose with colorless nail polish and it does look lovely."



In 1947 a new Nation was created from part of what had been Great Britain's Indian Empire. This Western Indian Moslem state is Pakistan. Its frontiers include Kashmir on the East, China to the North, the Arabian Gulf on the South and to the West, the forbidding mountain peaks of Afghanistan, peopled by a handsome Aryan looking people called Pathans.

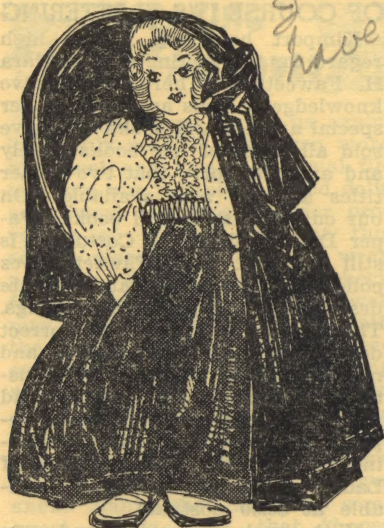


Our imported representative from Pakistan is "Janaba," a youthful, 12 inch Pathani woman, delicately moulded of firm rubber, skillfully hand-painted in lifelike flesh tones with deep black eyes. Her voluminous black dress features an embroidered and beaded deep yoke. Dark red trousers match her sari-style outer garment, trimmed in green. Her pierced ears are ornamented by loops of beads, almost concealed by her thick black braids. She wears wristlets of yellow translucent beads; and a strange necklace of brown leather amulets. Our Janaba from the rocky slopes of the Khyber Pass is an intriguing and lovely representative of a strange people, thought by some historians to be descendants of one of the lost tribes of Israel. No. 675 at \$13.50, with detachable wooden base.

From neighboring, but none too friendly, India, we offer a repeat shipment of that most interesting of all Indian entertainers, the Snake Charmer. Extremely neat and well made; all cloth, but lifelike in appearance on a bendable frame, our red turbaned, bearded fakir is 8 inches tall in a kneeling position. Complete with strange shaped wooden flute and braided basket containing one king size King Cobra (just rubber) he is No. 655, \$5.95.

Denmark sent sweet, plump little girls of celluloid all done up in Christmas colored costumes. In 6½ inch size from the district of Aarhus is No. 950A in green skirt, red blouse and lacey white cap. She even sports a black net apron and bodice with gold buttons. \$3.95, and just a few left in stock.





Natalie is a native of the tiny Island of Malta, which is situated almost squarely in the middle of the Mediterranean. An 8 inch doll with attractive composition face and sturdy yet feminine cloth body, she wears the same costume girls of this land wore back even in medieval times when Malta was a lonely bastion against the conquering waves of Turkish Empire. The principal feature of her attire is the huge black hooded faldetta; hues of color are added by her yellow blouse with lacey front and bright red sash. No. 285, \$6.50.

Mr. Papa San of Korea is a brightly painted woodcarved miniature of the hard working farmers of this troubled nation. Wicker "A" frame basket on his back, this 5½ inch carving is slightly stylized, but realistic. No. 553, Korean Man, \$3.95.



Philippa is a delightful little 6½ inch cloth doll from Portugal, in the unusual costume of the Isle of Madeira. From her dark blue acorn shaped cap down to her real leather boots trimmed in red, she is a riot of color—green, blue, red, yellow and white, neatly sewn into cape, bodice and striped skirt. Rosy cheeked Philippa is No. 1008, \$4.50.

The British Museum in Pietermaritzburg has been kind enough to find us another group of those authentic, native crafted fetish dolls from Natal. These strange 4½ inch beaded mother and babe with cloth face, and base, are real collection pieces, not to mention conversation ditto! From the Dark Continent of Africa delivered to your living room, No. 103B, only \$5.95.

## NEVER? WELL HARDLY EVER!

Gilbert and Sullivan stated the fact a generation ago, and Kimport seems to be learning the hard way, that a positive statement such as "always" is dangerous to put into print, especially on such a complicated history as Queen Anne dolls! In deference of our little new "Primer," however, we have to condense into capsule form the essential information and leave the fine points to the experts!

Even so, we must give you the advantage of a valid criticism from a doll authority whose judgment we respect and whose ever friendly cooperation we greatly value. Nita Loving writes: "I am so glad you are doing 'The Primer.' Now if I had time, I'd give you a little argument about the Queen Anne dolls **always** having mortised hips for pegging on wooden legs. My best one, which came from you, incidentally, doesn't have, and I've seen others. I think the first ones were just head and torso—cloth or leather arms and legs were nailed on. Step 2: Mortised hips; Step 3: Wooden arms added." Touche! We agree!

To sweeten up the little criticism, Mrs. Loving adds: "Give thought to publishing the Primer when you get through the series. You know how long I've been telling you to write a book!" But mercy me! Writing Doll Talk bi-monthly seems formidable enough!

## OF COURSE IT'S FLATTERING

Kimport has long had a high regard for the writing skill of Clara H. Fawcett and her authoritative knowledge of dolls as shown in her special articles and books. We have sold all three of her books widely and are only sorry that two of her titles are not now available. On our current list of doll books, "Paper Dolls, a Guide to Costume," is still in stock. Mrs. Fawcett gives collectors authentic data, minute descriptions and her own drawings. These serve as a guide for correct doll costuming. Two hundred and nineteen pages and over 200 illustrations. Includes brief history and review of early paper dolls, a reprint of a booklet of 1857 on making paper dolls; shows gowns of Ladies of the White House. Available at \$5.00 postpaid.

With such a background you may know how pleased we were to have her generous appraisal of Doll Talk. "Your 'Doll Talk' is really outstanding. You get your news over in such an interesting way, and continue to do much for doll collectors.... Sometime when you are in Washington, go to the Index of Design Department of the National Gallery of Art and ask to see their pictures of dolls. They are allowing me to use these in forthcoming articles for Hobbies.... When I write about their pictures of bisques, may I quote what you say about Bru dolls on the back of your August 1958 number?"

## SUGGESTION FROM MILDRED CHAFEY

When the rubber bodies begin to break around the neck and knees, I make a cover of heavy unbleached muslin for the whole body, after using plenty of adhesive tape

to hold the head on original body. I make long "stockings" of pink silk jersey and sew them securely to the body. This way you retain the original shape of body and legs.



# SPEAKING ANTIQUE

With Christmas facing us again, it's highly possible that even more sentiment and love than usual filters into our reminiscing. Old dolls are always the most wonder provoking of antiques, but at this season when it is time to wrap packages, sham a pudding, check friends' home addresses, it well may be a dear bisque doll beneath the tinsled tree will flash before our eyes. A memory lives as long as life, but things last even longer.

These dolls for Christmas buying have lasted past the day their owners cared for them. They now become your opportunity to own anew. Babies that nestled in some sweet child's arms, that "hoped for" special one beneath the tree, and reminding us most of the Holy Time, are five most interesting Creche dolls.

The babies, well, first a life size 1922 Grace Story Putnam Bye-Lo, so marked on both head and body. Twenty inches long, eighteen inch head circumference, sleeping blue eyes. Completely original and perfect, including the dimpled hands of heavy celluloid and even her "store" dress. Pretty bonnet only was a later gift item. No. A856—\$95.00

Similar size and many think prettier, is a 21 inch A.M. Dream Baby (1924). This infant with 16 inch head circumference though, is not as popular a collector item as the new born Bye-Lo is. Sweetly dressed in sheer white lawn with little blue bows and bonnet

ties to match her eyes; both of course have closed lips—they're much too young for teeth! No. A858—\$40.00.

Shown in the oval print is one of those precious Kestner bisque characters! She has blond, human hair, sleeping brown eyes; adorably modeled mouth that looks open, but there is no opening in the bisque, just the little tongue modeled. The head alone is well worth the price of the doll; body is OK, except the arms have peeled and hands, too, need mending. Long sleeves on the pretty pink silk dress cover the arms, but of course we mention defects. Pretty silk booties and bonnet in crochet match the ivory lace trim on the frock. Fifteen inches long, this marked J.D.K. is No. A836, at \$35.00.



Back to the big babies, and it's a "Fulper" tot, 19 inches tall, with 15 inch head circumference. Tousled auburn curls and big brown eyes, and two quite sizable, pearly top teeth distinguish this plump baby head. It's that vertically printed FULPER above "Made in U.S.A." which makes this tot a collector item. Original composition body, swivel neck, shoulder and hip joints—clothes ordinary but real baby size. No. A796, \$35.00.

And—"Baby Brown Eyes," such a beauty, who sits 13½ inches high. Her K and R marked bisque head is 13 inches in circumference;

sleeping, dark brown eyes are fringed with lashes the shade of her bobbed and banged wig. There is the cutest little wobbly tongue; jointed composition body is perfect, and clothing exceptionally fine with identically trimmed flounces on both the dress and petticoat. Circa 1912, No. A840, \$35.00.

Even at Christmas, it does seem that's all the space we should give to babies—only five here offered, but they're all the kind of offspring who would take prizes at State Fair! Of course, Kimport has others, but now for a few of those select old dears who would have graced the Christmas Eve festivities along with cranberry shrub and cardamon cakes.

Starting quite large again, the Halbig Gibson Girl pictured stands 22 inches tall from her high heeled slippers to aigrette trimmed hat. The picture shows her big blue (sleeping) eyes, pierced ears, and lady styling of her golden, real hair, and, by the way, she has an extra "switch" to build above her pompadour when the hat is off. The slender, adult body is modeled full busted and is completely jointed, even to swivel wrists. Dressed in changeable green taffeta by Clara Morearty, with such detail as horsehair braid facing at the skirt hem. Doll dates about 1900; is swivel necked, not the shoulder head "Gibson." No. A838, \$110.00.

Now on Miss Gibson's right is a 17 inch Walking doll, on a patented round metal base that has four wheels and a key which winds her up. She sure 'could travel' 'round the festive board, and also, there are two bead tipped cords which make two noises (nothing



personal!) when pulled. Her shoulder head marked "Florodora"; auburn wig, sleeping blue eyes; original blue dress and matching hat are faded; dates around 1895. No. A875, \$92.50.

And on Miss Gibson's left, 9 inch waxed bonnet head, with pupil-less porcelain eyes, wood limbs and silent voice box in her cambric covered chest! Her woolen suit is red as holly berries; we think she's all original, of 1875, and tag says, mended, but one can't see where. 'Nice to group with the later white basque bonnet heads or waxes—No. A530, at \$27.50.

Next three, not pictured, but well chosen, have 'bisque heads.

Fifteen inch, closed mouth, leather bodied girl is almost exactly as she came to her first Christmas back in the 1880's. Long head is ball type, full cheeked with set blue eyes. A real hair wig and buckled slippers are later, otherwise this child in her quaint old



satine frock, sky blue with lace and mustard velvet trim, is all original and perfect. Pretty bisque hands. No. A867, \$40.00.

French bisque, 11¼ inch, beautiful child with modeled, corn color bangs and soft curls. The 2½ inch head and chubby pink arms came on a torso minus legs, so we used that rather common old kind with dull white stockings and brown glazed shoes. Handsome old velvet jacketed dress is highly becoming with a bit of bright blue beading to match her painted eyes. "Pink parian" quality, No. A788 is \$32.50.

A 7 inch Simon Halbig, bisque-headed girl must be included because, for one thing, her round old print paper covered base is a candy box lid. Sure, she came to some Holiday party, bearing now-faded yuletide greens in her wooden hands. Wooden legs, too; circa 1900, cute and smiling. No. A876, \$9.50.

Before climaxing with Creche dolls here, briefly are seven that are much too young to have been under my Christmas tree.

By Mme. Alexander, two well marked, all perfect and in original clothes. Nine inch McGuffey Ann has long hair braids under her big straw hat. No. A878, \$12.50.

Seven inch "Alice" with expression—and costume for Wonderland. No. A879, \$7.50.

Two by Effanbee, great big, 32 inch marked "Lovums," Pat. 1932, we think. She is a darling life-size chubby girl who can wear store clothes; blond braids and a cluster of curls at her forehead. Sleeping, green eyes, swivel neck onto shoulders, but soft body to shoulders and thighs. No. A863, \$18.00.

Eighteen inch "Patsy-Ann," in fair condition; sleeps, has smooth complexion and an extra costume. No. A880, \$7.50.

Thirteen and a half inch, all composition "Snow White"—modeled with blue bow above forehead; original, but worn, dress and cape. No. A825, \$8.50.

Eleven inches, and nearly as broad as tall "Campbell Kid"—colored edition. Brown composition head and hands; old yellow with red cotton frock. No. A881, \$7.50.

Strictly toy type is a West Point Cadet, 21 inches from his firm standing feet to the top of his plume. Very well made with wool felt and white cheviot treated pink cloth face and hands—labeled "Exclusive design by R. J. Krueger, N.Y." No. A882, \$3.50.

Five of the six Creche dolls are from the collection of the late Miss Linda Musser, she, having had them via Kimport, from the George Wehner group which we secured from his fascinating studio apartment in New York, twenty years ago. Mr. Wehner, while touring as artist appraiser with a group of wealthy friends, had been given, and purchased some exceptional treasures for himself. As I recall, there was his book, "The Curious Life," just off of the press, and in our file, "Religious Dolls," this poem, signed and dated, Nov. 1938.

"Now they are going from me,  
Those old cathedral dolls.  
The smile, long-time and tender,  
This old room cherished—falls,  
For they made dull hours cheery  
When oft the world seemed drear,  
Their rich brocades and laces  
Ghosted by yester-year.  
Their carven faces imaged



From courts of pomp and show,  
Will haunt my heart forever,  
No matter where they go."

From Miss Musser's photographs, first is "Wife of the Innkeeper," supposedly a Bavarian doll dating around 1800. Her head is terra-



cotta, from which the paint has cracked from the heat of candles probably; expressive hands are finely carved with just one finger chipped off as if to show the grain of wood. Eleven and a half inches tall; undoubtedly all garments are original as there's old parchment paper inter-lining for both dress and apron. Colors are muted with age, except the scarlet vestee which repeats the brilliance of her modeled turban. **No. A872, \$45.00.**

Eleven inch Angel, looking like something Botticelli might have visioned, is made to hang suspended from a loop of cord. Her gilt and lace trimmed robe of antique silk is the most luminously yellow hue, wired in the hem for that outstanding effect. Both sets of limbs and lovely head are terra-cotta. **No. A871, \$72.50.**

Eight and a half inch Blackamoor or Nubian Prince is rarest of the lot. In perfect condition (age considered) with unbelievably fine little crewel embroidery motifs on his satin vest and sleeves. His eyes, as are on all, are inset glass, but seem most strangely life-like with the ebony shade of his negroid features. Precious! **No. A870, \$85.00.**

The ten inch brothers, "Manuel" on the left, and "Estaban" in cherry red coat, must have been laid away for a good part of their many years. Their silken coats, vests, trousers, their scarves and cummerbunds are all in such fine condition and, again, no broken fingers on their truly lovely hands. They are of Spanish type. Manuel, in golden brownish tones with accents of red and green is **No. A869 at \$55.00**; aristocratic Estaban, **No. A868 is also \$55.00.**

## BACK TO SCHOOL THEY GO!

Marion Ball Wilson writes: "I have accepted a teaching position for this year at Penn-Hall Junior College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania... I plan to take as many of my dolls as I can plus my Pennsylvania Dutch stuff—to decorate my room and department. The school has offered to build me cases for my dolls so I can display them and other items... So back to school with my dolls, and I hope they will help me and mean as much to me this time as they did before... Surely enjoyed the picture and story of the Santons. A friend brought me a fishmonger, similar to yours from France. It is most interesting. I didn't realize my figure was a Santon."

## FLASH—AN' REFURBISH

Mrs. A. L. Douglas writes from Tennessee:—"And I thought making dolls out of flash bulbs was strictly my idea! Then here comes Doll Talk telling about the angels with old bulb heads made out in Oregon. I reckon doll lovers are sisters under the skull the world over. I have made Christmas angels, also puppets and little lady dolls, using flash bulbs."



The Welsh children of Joan Lucas have been long time favorites with collectors and rightfully so, as they are truly charming 8 inch dolls with sweetly painted faces and correct Welsh garb, including the famous chimney pot hats. Gwentyd, **No. 262A**, and her boyfriend, Llewellyn, **No. 262**, are priced the same—**\$4.50 each or \$9.00 per pair.**

**REPRINT:****"DOLLS, A GUIDE FOR COLLECTORS"****BY CLARA HALLARD FAWCETT**

The best doll books have proved far more popular than their publishers anticipated, hence limited editions, some of which are already out of print, and commanding premium prices. In only a few instances have reprints been run, and we are glad to be able to offer two second editions in this column.

The first printing of this Fawcett book was in 1947 and it has proved an authoritative, well written and comprehensive source of doll information. It was in response to a wide demand that Century House ventured a reprint, and we just now have stock available to sell.

This new revision has been considerably condensed from the first edition as evidenced by its having only 112 pages as against 194 in the original printing. Much of this shortening has been in leaving out indexes and chapter and illustration lists, and in the omission of an extensive article on puppets. This still leaves all the really essential doll information, and there is much patent data not included in the first book.

Being printed by a photo-offset method, most pages are reproduced intact. Unfortunately in combining and condensing some material there are four or five unfinished paragraphs and other printing er-

rors. Any collector would still be rewarded by having this book for reading and reference, and since this reprint is a very limited edition it may not be available long. "Dolls, a Guide for Collectors" (Reprint) \$5.00.

**REPRINT:****"DOLLS AND PUPPETS"****BY MAX VON BOEHN**

With true German thoroughness, the chronological history of dolls from primitive to present times was written by Max von Boehn and in 1929 was translated into English and sold in America. The original edition has been out of print some years now, and is a valuable collector item.

In 1956 a revised edition was printed by Charles T. Branford Co., and it's available at a nominal price. There are some changes; two of its original chapters are not included, but modern dolls are described by Mrs. Luella Hart and the field of puppetry is covered by Lili Chriswell, both authoritative writers.

With two exceptions, the illustrations are in black and white as against 30 color plates before. There are still over 500 pages of interesting doll information. The efforts of Darcy (Mrs. Charles Williams) in encouraging the reprinting of the book seem well justified. "Dolls and Puppets" (a Reprint) \$7.50 postpaid.

**FIRST FIRST LADY OF THE WHITEHOUSE**

"Martha" is a paper doll 7" tall and dressed in the undies of her day. Three separate costumes are included as well as hats and ac-



# DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for two years.

Address:

**KIMPORT DOLLS**  
Independence, Mo.

cessories. They all are in "book" form with a pastel cover, similar to the manner in which McLaughlin Brothers put out their paper dolls in the 1860s.

This is published by Marian B. Howard and may be ordered through Kimport Dolls, Box 495, Independence, Missouri. Price \$3.00 postpaid. Please allow 10 days for mailing.

## A DOLL TO WEAR

For those of you who have never dressed a doll, here is a chance to be paid back and let a doll add something to your attire! A New England creator of costume jewelry has devised an unusual and attractive 1 3/4" silver Fashion Doll pin. Nicely detailed in bas-relief this little lady is in Civil War era costume including multiflounced, bustle-backed dress and pert little bonnet. She comes postpaid from Kimport as No. 37P at \$1.25.



## CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"Thanks for sending the catalog. I have spent needless hours searching for many of the dolls you have on hand all the time!"

—Kathryn Hause, Pa.

"The French faggot gatherer arrived today and she is terrific! Now I understand why you were so enthusiastic over the Santons of Provence." —Marian McSwain, Ill.

"My dolls are getting undue attention these weeks since I am laid up with phlebitis after an argument with the coffee table. The present project is dressing boy dolls, almost a dozen of them!"

—Louise Oder, Ill.

"Being house-bound with a bed-ridden Mother of 88 years, it was a welcome change to read Doll Talk while I was eating lunch. It took me to the enchanting land of dolls."

—Eleanor Childs, Wash., D. C.

"A friend of mine brought back a whole set of those artistic Santons from France. I have always wanted one, and so glad of this opportunity! They are beautifully made." —Eleanor Keighton, Pa.

"As to those special antique wants, I'll willingly let you snoop for the dolls and do all the foot work." —Alice Stimmel, Ohio

"The little Dresden lady has just been re-dressed in dark blue velvet with a touch of gold lace—How would you like a dress with five roses on it, each as large as your head?!" —Malby Clark, Calif.

"About four years ago, while in Cuba, I picked up a virus infection and was promptly put to bed after returning home. Friends began to bring me dolls to dress, so then and there the collection was started!" —Mrs. Ruth Stewart, Iowa

"Our school girl daughter got 'excellent' on her essay on Race Tolerance, based on her love for 'Saralee'." —Mrs. C. A. Kutz, Minn.

"'Am an infant in this doll world, but growing up fast, thanks to the help of Doll Talk. I'm having more fun than when I was a child, now restoring and costuming dolls." —Bessie Bannon, Ind.

"Our summer has been constant rain. Did you know that Odorex-Dicloride crystals keep out the mildew besides their protection against moths? It's worth passing along." —Prudy Cole, Miss.

"Betsy Ross left for school this morning, hastily re-done a bit into Dolly Madison because 'Dolly' they had to have! Thus we juggle history all for the Arlington Schools—Ha!" —Lillian McDonald, Va.

"I have some of my mother's Civil War time paper dolls. She was ten years old at time of Civil War. An only child, her mother packed them away in a trunk, where we found them while my mother still lived. Also two pieces of her doll house furniture—black iron... Toys of yesterday, what pleasant memories they evoke... I do get so much pleasure from Doll Talk. It is enchanting!"

—Charlotte R. Clynes, N. J.

"'Just back from a vacation cruise, which put us in all the right places at all the wrong times—the stores were closed. I find I've a few unspent bits of ready cash which are burning a hole in my favorite billfold—so-o---."

—Lois Stott, Illinois

"Would like to spend my doll money for the oldest good dolls, and hope my 'aim' is not too high."

—Mrs. J. L. Penrod, Ark.

"Please send me another 'want sheet' and destroy the other you have on file for me. One's taste changes and I'm becoming interested in a better type of doll."

—Kathryn Davidson, Oregon

"Plastic freezer bags even cover some dolls on display, and always go over dolls enroute to showings and talks. I keep these and some soft packing things stored in the huge train case I carry dolls in when they go traveling."

—Ricarda B. Pyle, Calif.

"Please, if my insatiable curiosity can be resisted, keep all the contents of that hold box until they are mine, free and clear. I calculate that should be when all the Xmas excitement is passed and I am deep in doldrums."

—Nora Dencer, N. J.

"The Brittany girl has 'eye-appeal' in abundance. She is gracing our 1855 French clock at the moment."

—Mrs. R. G. Bone, Illinois

"I have all the other paper dolls, except Jack and Little Fairy, and am so happy to discover these early re-issues still available."

—Virginia Plunkett, Mich.



## ONCE UPON A TIME

Back in 1944, Kimport's new catalog was mighty shy on good foreign dolls due to the terrible world conflict then raging in almost every corner of the world. We did manage to keep going, however, with our chief offerings being State and other American type dolls. One of the most popular of these was "Notion Nannie" by Madelon Lyle and here is her description verbatim from the 1944 Catalog.



NOTION NANNIE

"One of the most appealing doll folk that has come to Kimport is wistful-eyed Nannie with her notions tray. It contains about two dozen miniature trinkets, every one of which is cuter than the last; hand-knit rug, bag, potholder, socks, apron and tiny household

linens. But the wee notions, buttons, needles, hairpins and even a chore ball are the cutest! Nannie is dressed in a worsted skirt and jacket, an apron with pocket for her cash and over her soft white hair a pretty scarf. No. 112—Notion Nannie, 9" size, \$5.00."

After the war we lost contact with Miss Lyle and after our stock on Nannie was gone we sadly discontinued her from our line. Then this fall we received a letter from Pittsburg which began "Quite some time ago—". Yes, Notion Nannie is back, just as described above to Kimport customers of 14 years ago; same doll, same number and most unbelievable of all, same price! The only change is a happy one—no longer does she have for sale on her tray those tragic little blue flags with white or gold stars for mothers to hang in the window to commemorate sons far away! Let us all hope that this is one item Nannie will never have to add to her basket again.

## STATE OF THE MONTH

Since it is Miss Georgie of Kimport who spreads an especially hovering hand over our Doll of the Month customers, this note from Marie France went to Georgie's desk.

"Just to tell you all how much I liked my Woodsman from Washington state—he really looks like the real thing! I am glad, too, for as you know, I had been wanting a wooden doll for some time. I have liked your selections very much and am already looking forward to receiving my next doll of the month."

## DOLL PRIMER: The Creche-- A Precious Symbol

Authorities differ as to whether Creche figures are dolls or figurines, but all agree they were a gentle religious influence from the Fourth Century to our times. When first introduced into the Catholic church there were just the Nativity Figures, brought out at Christmas time so simple worshippers could better visualize the Christ story. The response was so effective that soon every church and cathedral in Italy had its Creche, and the idea spread to Switzerland, France, Spain, Holland and Germany. The name might be "Creche" in France; "Krippen" in Germany; "Pesepio" in Italy; "Nacimientos" in Spain or "Posadas" in Mexico, but the central purpose of dramatizing the Nativity was the same in all countries, while the craftsmanship of the figures reflected the varying skills and the differing national tastes.

Creche making reached its height during the 18th Century, and the artists of Naples and Sicily were perhaps the most versatile, although wood carving North of the Alps vied with the terra cotta sculpture of Italy in creating figures of a beauty worthy of display at the most magnificent altar. The nuns and gentlewomen designed costumes of rich materials and exquisite needlework.

The love of the Creche spread from churches to homes and soon no hut was too poor nor castle too opulent to enshrine the Holy Figures. They varied from the simplest little groups of three or four to entourages of hundreds. The King of Naples in 1760, from his own royal workbenches had 500 figures made. From the Holy Family, the characters were expanded to include sculptured likenesses of the rich patrons and their families, then servants, tradesmen and simple villagers.

Creche figures were made of various materials. Perhaps most Italian ones were modeled of terra cotta, then tinted and varnished. In Northern Italy some dolls were papier mache, and in Switzerland and Germany the natural medium was wood, where the hand carving reached its perfection. Some heads were of poured wax. The eyes were of inset glass, and the bodies might be cloth stuffed and the limbs of heavy wire wrapped with thread for flexibility. The most popular sizes were 12" to 14"; many larger of course. Hands were usually of wood, and there, time has taken its most disastrous toll as fragile fingers were vulnerable and it's seldom that a perfect pair of hands can be found. Creche hands were often over-size and usually shown in expressive attitudes. This was also noticeable in the paintings of the 18th Century as the artists always strove to show character, and no features are more revealing than human hands.

The early stationary figures told a dramatic story, and served their religious purpose well, but by the time the Germans worked out their automatons, the reverence of the people had begun to wane, and Creches became commercial and decorative rather than religious. In that tradition they are still displayed at Christmas time, and the truly antique figures are richly cherished.

---

**KIMPORT DOLLS,** P. O. BOX 495  
INDEPENDENCE, MO.